



William Penn Newsletter 17th October 2016

Half Term and INSET/Closure Reminder

We would like to wish you all a lovely half term which, for the children, begins tomorrow on Friday 21st October with the first day back in school being Wednesday 2nd November.

Good Practice in Engaging with Parents and Carers

I am pleased to inform you that the school has been recognised for demonstrating good practice in engaging with parents and carers of children with Special Education Needs. Congratulations to Mrs Burke and her team who are extremely dedicated.

Harvest Parents' Assembly – Thank You

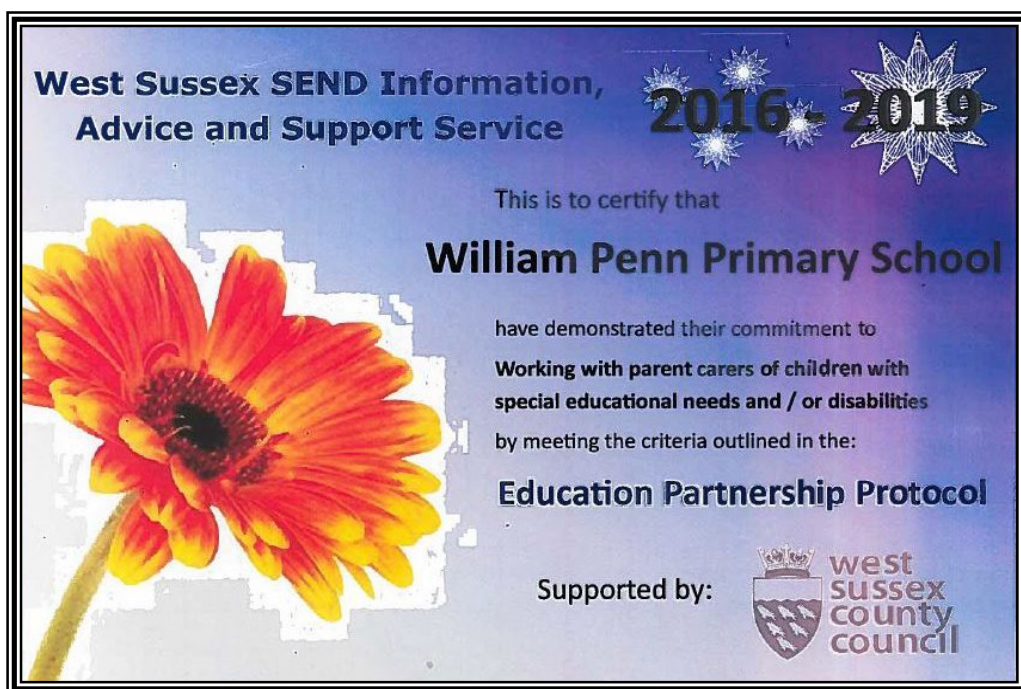
We were so pleased that so many of you were able to join us for our Harvest Parents' Assembly on Monday. The children gave us a fantastic performance. Our thanks go to them and the staff for reminding us of the importance of Harvest and giving at this time of year. We were pleased to receive your donations for our Harvest sale and will be sending £112.16 to 'Kids for Kids' in order to support sustainable aid and growth in Sudan.

Parent Surveys

Many of you were able to informally meet members of the Governing Body at our parents' consultations last week. Thank you to those parents that completed the governors' annual parent survey at that time. We do like to have views that are representative of as much of the parent body as possible and with this in mind, have included a copy with this newsletter in case you haven't been able to comment yet. The Governing Body will be collating the surveys shortly after half term so please pass them to the school office by November 4th.

7 Billion Ideas

Four of our pupils; Elizabeth, Pheobe, Maya and Megan represented William Penn at the local final of the 7 Billion Ideas Challenge. In total, over 2,000 children took part in the competition and 40 in the final! The William Penn team finalists presented their 'Sky Farms' concept where the roofs of city





skyscrapers can be transformed into garden type farms providing fresh local produce for people living within cities. They explained how 'cities can be fresh' and the idea will help cut down on pollution and utilise space that is otherwise wasted. Our team had a great time and represented the school admirably. The 7 billion ideas judges included members from the Billingshurst Lions.



Playground Safety Reminder

We have recently mentioned to the children in assembly a few rules about their behaviour after the end of the school day. **We have asked the children to stay close to parents/collectors once the teacher has passed them back in order that they are safe and under parental supervision.** This is particularly important as the school gate is, by necessity, open at this time. It is also much easier for the children if they know that the same rules apply after the end of the school day as during it. We have asked them not to run on to the grass and not to use playground or other equipment (such as outside Cadbury) as often this has been tidied already and set up for use the next day. If children are attending consultations or parents meetings, we would ask that they sit in the hall and not run around the grounds. Thank you for your cooperation.

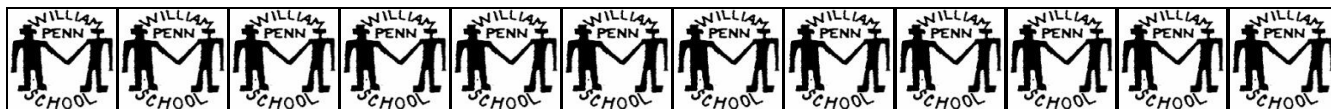
Children in Need – A message from the School Council

We are writing to let you know that we are going to have a Pudsey Bear day on Friday 18th November, to help raise money for Children in Need. We would like everyone to wear something spotty (as much or as little as you want) and in return to give a donation. We will then send this to Children in Need. This year school council would also like to hold a cake sale after school under the canopy. Please can as many children, parents or grandparents help us make cakes or biscuits for our sale.

Thank you for helping us.

The School Council





Access Arrangements and New Build

The preparations for the new build are progressing well. JBB has now moved in to the school hall and this will remain as a classroom for approximately two weeks after half term. The ground works, including demolishing the existing classroom are scheduled to take place during half term in order to minimise disruption. Access to the rear of the school will be via Cadbury, Fox or the school office depending on the time of day until further notice.

Mathematics and English Teaching

We are now half a term in to teaching mathematics and English using the Numicon and Read Write Inc approaches. This has meant far more teaching in year groups than as whole classes which reflects national curriculum and assessment structures. Major benefits of this are smaller groups for teaching and learning and also greater emphasis on putting firm foundations in place in Key Stage 1 for learning in Key Stage 2. As the learning is progressive, it is essential that children receive the teaching at the right level for them. This might result in some children working outside of their classes and year groups for some lessons for some of the time. This is quite an organic process and difficult to predict which children, when and for how long; it is really very much dependent on the needs of the child which fits without school aim to cater for individual needs.

New Build Coffee Morning Thank You

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Middlemas and Christina for organising a coffee morning in aid of the new build fund and to everyone that supported the event. The excellent news is that the proceeds total £100 which is gratefully received. Thank you.

Non-Uniform Day Friday 4th November and Tree of Fortune

Friday 4th November will be a non-uniform day in preparation for the Christmas Fayre. In return for wearing non-uniform, we would gratefully receive donation of bottles (alcohol please) ready for the Bottle Tombola.

We are still looking for prizes for both the Raffle and Tree of Fortune (prizes worth in excess of £5) and if any parent can make a donation or secure a donation from contacts or local businesses please put take these or prize details to the school office. An introductory letter from the PTA to potential business donors accompanies this letter. Thank you

Pupil Achievements

If you have any pupil achievements that you would like mentioned in the newsletter, please e-mail the office: office@williampenn.w-sussex.sch.uk

